A History of Agriculture and Trade Interconnections and Local Governance around the Tomas Dam Market Network in Kano Hinterland, 1975-2021

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Abstract
This study examines the historical evolution of agricultural markets and local governance around the Tomas Dam market network in the Kano hinterland between 1975 and 2021. Situated within the broader transformation of rural economies in northern Nigeria, the research explores how irrigation, seasonal agricultural cycles, and market interconnectivity shapes patterns of trade and social organization. Focusing on key markets including Laberiya, Wailare, Makoda, Gawon-Bature, Kayanore, Shenteke, Maitsidau, and Danmarke, the study investigates their origins. Employing a qualitative historical methodology, it draws on secondary sources, field reports, and oral interviews with traders and market leaders. The findings reveal that market activity is strongly influenced by seasonal production cycles, with Laberiya functioning as a dominant dry season hub, while other markets play a complementary role within an integrated network. Governance is centered on the institution of the Sarkin Kasuwa and market committees which regulate trade, revenue collection, and dispute resolution. The study contributes to historiography by offering a micro historical account of rural market systems and highlight their enduring relevance for contemporary debates on local governance and rural development in northern Nigeria.
Keywords; Tomas Dam, Kano hinterland, agricultural markets, rural trade networks, local governance, Sarkin Kasuwa

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Introduction

Markets within Kano are multifaceted, defined by period, season, location, and the specific type of commodity traded. Beyond their economic function as centers of commerce, these markets have historically served as important social spaces for establishing networks, exchanging cultural ideas and goods, and fostering both inter-ethnic and intra-ethnic cohesion. This multifunctional role of markets was particularly evident in Kano from the 1860s, coinciding with the boom of the groundnut pyramids as well as long established cattle and butchery trades. In the contemporary period, this historical legacy persists, as markets within the Kano metropolis such as Dawanu, Kantin Kwari, and Sabon-Gari remain busy, densely populated commercial centers with significant local and international patronage.

The focus of this paper is on a specific network of markets in the vicinity of the Tomas Dam, including Wailare, laberiya, Galoru/Danmarke, Gawon-Bature, Kayan-ore, Makoda cikin gari, Shenteke, and Maitsidau. A common historical thread linking all these markets is their trade in agricultural commodities, which are derived either from natural rainfall or irrigation, primarily sourced from Tomas Gari dam. Each of these markets has a specified day and system of operation, unique capacities and varying expectations of revenue. The markets are interconnected; for instance, the activity of Laberiya market during the rainy season often leads to reduced activity in Galoru, as traders consolidate their commodities in Laberiya to sell to a larger population of resellers and end-users.

The establishment and evolution of these markets reflects the region's historical and environmental changes. For example, the Laberiya market established in 1982, is considered the largest rainy season market in the area, and its relocation to the current site was a direct consequence of the dam's establishment. Wailare market established in 1985 functions as a holding point for products destined for other markets around the Tomas dam, particularly serving the hinterland where road access is poor. This historical analysis seeks to elucidate the operational, political, and socio-economic significance of this vital network of markets in the Tomas Dam area.

Markets in Tomas Dam Area

Tomas irrigation scheme is situated mainly in Babbar ruga ward in Makoda L.G.A of Kano State. It is located in northern part of Kano State bordered by Dambatta in the north east and by Dawakin Tofa and Bichi in the west and south respectively. It lies between geographical coordinates of 12* 25 O N and 8* 25 O E. the dam has its deepest point at about 60 metres and situated near the Danmarke village. The mean temperature of the area is 30.3^0c, average annual rainfall is 760mm with abundant sunshine. The soil is sandy loam, low in organic matter content, porous with medium texture soil and pH of 6. 7.5.[1]

There are three main seasons based on temperature element. A cool and dry season: it lasts from November to February. During which the mean monthly temperature is between 21 and 23ºC with diurnal range of 12-14ºC. The harmattan winds prevail at this period. The period is followed by a hot and dry season which lasts from March to mid-May. The mean monthly temperature during this period is in excess of 30ºC and the daily range is up to 20ºC. this is followed by the wet season which is warm, with mean monthly temperatures about 26ºC and a diurnal range of about 10ºC, rising to 13ºC in September.[2]

The mean annual rainfall is about 800 mm around metropolitan Kano. Great temporal variation occurs in the amount of rainfall received and no two consecutive years record same amount. The amount receives vary between Kano metropolis and its southern and northern extremes based on the latitudinal and longitudinal factors. The amount of rainfall may reach about 1000 mm in the southern Kano. While in the northern extreme, the annual rainfall value received is lower than 800 mm especially toward the vicinity of desert land.[3]

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[1] Anas Abubakar, "Impact of Tomas Irrigation Scheme (T.I.S.) on Socio-Economic Activities of Danmarke and Hadin Maikayi communities in Makoda Local Government Area of Kano State", unpublished HND Project, Audu Bako College of Agriculture, Danbatta, (2014),13

[2] Adamu Mustapha et al, "Overview of the physical and human setting of Kano region", *Research Journal of Geography*, Vol 1, No 5 July (2014), 3

[3] Mustapha etal, Overview of the physical and human setting of Kano region, 3.

The climate of the area is strongly influenced by the tropical maritime air mass and the tropical continental air mass like in most parts of West Africa. The tropical maritime air mass which originates from the southern high-pressure belt is humid in nature and is attended with on-shore south-western winds off and the Gulf of Guinea. The tropical continental air mass on the other hand is dry and accompanied by north-east trade winds. These two air masses control the climate of the Kano Region making it the wet and dry type which is more dry than wet in the Sudan and Sahel regions of Nigeria. Kano city is typically very hot throughout the year, though December through February, the city is noticeably cooler. Night time temperatures are cool during the months of December, January and February, with average low temperatures ranging from 11ºC to 14ºC.[4]

The Tomas dam area lies in the north western part of Kano region and is entirely underlain by basement complex of pre-cambia age which consists of igneous and metamorphic rocks there include granites, granitites sandstones, migmatites, gneisses, philites etc. Overlying these rocks is a stratum of decomposed rock of varying depth, in some places there is wind drift composed of a mixture of loess and dune sand materials.[5] The area lies on a relatively flat lowland plain which is slightly over 1500 metres above sea level. The central part of the area can be broadly categorized into upper and lower terraces. The upper terrace is a slightly undulating plain which slopes gently towards the bank of the old Tomas River bed. The surface of this terrace is nearly level with slight irregular micro relief features. Two shallow streams flowing eastward to join the Tomas River cut across the terrace. These two streams and the Tomas River are the major drainage channels in the Tomas Dam area.[6]

As is the case with all parts of northern Nigeria, the Tomas dam area falls climatically under the influence of two alternating wind systems; the rain bearing south east monsoon winds (tropical maritime air masses) and the dry dusty north east trade winds (tropical continental air masses). The area experiences distinct wet and dry season weather. The dry season lasts from October to April, while the wet season commences in April or May and continues till September, with the peak in August.[7] The Tomas dam area lies within the Sudan savannah zone which is characterized by an average annual total rainfall of 500 to 900 mm. The mean yearly precipitation in the area is around 838 mm. There is considerable annual variation in amount, duration and distribution of rainfall in the area. There are irregularities of the rains at the beginning and end of the rainy season. The length of rainy season for Kano State ranges from an average of 95 days in the north to 150 days in the south, a decrease of one day for every 5.5 km as one move northward.[8]

Markets in Kano are distinguished by period, season, location and type of commodity. There are cattle markets, vegetable markets, grain markets that hold on specific days of the week. There are wet and dry season markets and each market has a unique method of operation, size and capacity, patronage. Markets in Kano have not only been economic centers for mutual activities of buying and selling but also a place of establishing connections, exchanging cultural ideas and items and fostering unity along inter-ethnic and intra-ethnic lines. Trade in Kano was well pronounced by the 1860s during the boom of the groundnut pyramids and the ancient cattle and butchery business amongst other traditionally practiced exercises.

Kano markets are known to always be busy, rowdy and crowded especially in the metropolis. With or without festivals there are some markets with very big with significant local and international coverage and patronage. Some of these markets include; Dawanu, Yan lemo, Kantin-Kwari, Kofar Wambai, Galadima, Kurumi, Rimi, Yan kura, Yan kaba, Tarauni, Hajj Camp, Sabon-gari, Bata, `Yan awaki, Panshekara amongst others.[9]

One common historical commodity prominent in all markets of the Tomas dam area are agricultural commodities that are derived by natural rainfall or irrigation. The markets include Wailare (night market), Laberiya,

[4] Mustapha etal, Overview of the physical and human setting of Kano region, 4

[5] M.M. Saidu, "Land Tenure Issues in and Around Tomas River Project Kano State, Nigeria", *CODESRIA*, 1991, 27.

[6] Saidu, "Land Tenure Issues in and Around Tomas River Project", 28.

[7] Saidu, "Land Tenure Issues in and Around Tomas River Project", 28.

[8] Saidu, "Land Tenure Issues in and Around Tomas River Project", 28.

[9] Field report from Low-income Small-scale Business activities in Laberiya Market, April 8, 2019

Galoru/danmarke, Gawon-bature, Kayan-ore, Makoda cikin gari, Shenteke and Maitsidau. These markets had specified days of operations, system of operation, most important commodities, varying levels of expectations from traders and buyers in terms of revenue and profitability.[10] The arrangement in markets of Tomas dam is the link that most markets have with one another. In a case where the Laberiya market is active in the rainy season, the galore market is not active as many take their commodities to the Laberiya market and sell to a larger population of resellers and end users. Another link is the common sources of most of the vegetables and seeds found in the market. Most of them were from the Tomas or Gari dam. The Tomas dam provides rich edible and inedible products widely demanded for and supplied at the peak of production of the particular cash or food crop.[11]

Wailare market

Established in 1985, the Wailare market is usually held in the night time between 6pm to 9pm on Fridays and Sundays. It serves as a holding point for products or commodities that are taken to other markets around the Tomas dam**.** The small size of the population connotes that the market is usually scanty and usually for dispersing goods to the hinterland where road access is poor. Over a long period of time the market has been neglected and given little attention its significance as a major passage to the Tomas dam. Common crops found in the market and roadside are sesame seeds (*ridi*), local fish, and few vegetables predominantly tomato and spinach.[12]

Wailare as well as the market connected passerby and traders to Tomas to other parts of Kano through the Kano-Daura Road linking the northern part of Kano to the world. It was a regular thing for passerby to stop to patronize petty traders and hawkers. Patronage was more on Fridays because after Sallah many worshippers within and outside the community needed items to eat and purchase for friends and family. Large number of the Government Secondary and primary school also patronized petty traders.[13]There are also indications that fishermen who got fish from the Tomas dam sold fish to local fish merchants who have a traditional method of preserving their fish through roasting and drying. These fishes were sold to individuals or group of sojourners.

Laberiya market

The Laberiya market was established in 1982 and considered as the largest rainy season markets in the Tomas dam area. The time of Liberian war coincided with the period of establishment of this market and this was: regarded by the people as significant to their trade because of the significance of West Africa to export crop production. People in the neighborhood cross the Tomas dam river using boat to transport the good as they travelled. The neighborhood includes Tangaji, Tangajiyo, Satame, Galoru and Shenteke.[14]

The Tomas dam is the source of irrigation water for all the products around the area. The market was relocated to its present site due to the establishment of the dam. Thus, channels were created to release flowing water to farmlands adjacent the dam. Agricultural products such as tomato, onions, pepper and maize are sold in the market are produced at the farmlands of direct water supply by the Tomas dam. The market is considered as the central market due to the nature of activities that goes on during the dry season and the centrality of its location and closeness to the Tomas dam. The market area predominantly is situated around the gravity area where a crop such as rice and maize is planted. Wailare, Satame and all other markets covered here during the harvest season in Makoda are also beneficiaries of the market. People from these areas carry their finished and by products to the market area to sell while creating opportunities for people to make their choices and purchase what they want or what they need.[15]

The prevalent structure of the market includes; constructed old brick stores, thatched made stalls where agricultural products are spread on the floor. There is usually a specified space in between stalls to separate one from the other.

[10] Field report from low-income April 8, 2019.
[11] Interview with Ibrahim Saleh, trader, age 45, Galoru Market, September 27, 2021.
[12] Interview with Yau Wailare, public servant and farmer, age 66, Wailare Market, February 18, 2021.
[13] Field report from Low-income Small-Scale Business activities in Wailare Market, April 8, 2019
[14] Interview with Saadu A. Sule, trader and Market Leader, age 57, Laberiya Market, July 16, 2021
[15] Sule, July 16, 2021

There is an open prayer ground at the center of the gravity section of the market. Other human activities seen include vehicles of transporters, local basket sellers, local barbers, food sellers, hawkers and others.[16]

Babbarruga, Satame are communities downstream to the opposite side of the rice production section of the dam. In this area, all kinds of vegetables especially tomato and pepper is planted and harvested. This area of the market has the Fadama III storage facility. Vegetables particularly tomato, pepper and onions are one of the most common products boosting revenue generation. The market welcomes traders from Lagos, Ilorin, Sokoto, Ibadan, Taraba, Jega, Kebbi, Niger, Niger Republic, and Maiduguri. Therefore, the movement of goods and services from the market is common among these routes.[17]

Local government appoints Sarkin Kasuwa. Opening the market attracts the chairman of LGA, traditional leaders, DPO. The appointment of Sarkin Kasuwa was about twenty years back. At the beginning receipts were allocated to laborers hails man. Chairman of the market appointed to take care of the revenue. Subordinates of the Sarkin Kasuwa are committee members, Chairman, Vice chair, Secretary, treasurer, Public Relations Officer, Secretary to Sarkin Kasuwa and other members reaching twenty in number. Market committee is responsible to Sarkin Kasuwa. The committee chairman was appointed by the Sarkin Kasuwa. Committee members were appointed based on identification and selection of them through their active roles of leadership.[18]

The leadership of the market as well as the traders and buyers has called for government support for improvements in the market in terms of stalls, fencing, stores and other modern infrastructure. Revenue generation is still below par and there is very little that can be done with the revenue generated and collected by the Sarkin Kasuwa. No unilateral decision without consensus (participation and democratization is evident). The market hasn't had any major crises except for few differences and altercation between sellers, buyers, agents and laborers which often comes as a result of price change, space allocation etc which was always resolved amicably or by the intervention of market leaders.[19]

Local government stalls are few most of the land is for private individuals. The market leadership collects revenues from stalls only about 100 stalls (local government shades) and it is collected per annum. Some other 20 stalls whose tax is collected on daily basis. They are part of those 100 stalls. The Revenue Officer (RO) brings receipts from the local government. The daily revenue is collected from those 20 selling vegetables. Estimated revenue of N1000 only per stall per annum would be 100,000 only. The 20 stalls generate about N7000 to N8000 and depending on circumstances sometimes N3000 only. This is the daily generation as well as the loading and uploading of vehicles.[20]

The market starts from January to April the peak season of the market. March and April is the most booming season. From April it goes down gradually up to December (lean period) The dry vegetable was produced in the beginning period and starts being sold after the fresh finished from April through December. The committee members rewarded from the 10% of the revenue generated to reward them. Revenue generation will be improved through fencing such that they have control over the market jurisdiction. The store does not belong to them but Fadama 3 and they pay annual fee to Fadama 3 Association of Farmers. They pay N10000 per shop for total of 15 stores/shops. Total of N150,000 per annum.[21]

Gawon-bature Market

The circumstances that led to the establishment of this market can be traced to the disagreement between the leaders of *Maidama* and the *Sarkin Kasuwa* of Laberiya market. Initially *Laberiya* was the only major market within the Tomas dam area. Inhabitants of other communities of the Tomas dam, such as those of Kade Gawon-bature, Kadandani north of Makoda come to sell their commodities in the market. However, disagreement ensued between

[16] Field report, April 8, 2019
[17] Sule, July 16, 2021
[18] Sule, July 16, 2021
[19] Sule, July 16, 2021
[20] Sule, July 16, 2021
[21] Sule, July 16, 2021

the leader of Maidama community and Laberiya market over the leadership and control of the market. When all efforts to resolve it amicably failed, the issue was taken to the then district head of Makoda town, Dr. Wada Waziri who intervened in the situation and advanced the setting up of a market instructing each Sarkin Kasuwa of the markets of Gawon-bature and Laberiya to operate independently.[22]

Kanyaore market

The market was established in 2003 located after the toll gate and next market to Dandalama town along Kano Daura road. It is predominantly a Fulani market and it is always busy at the rainy season. The Tomas people carry grains and other products to the market during the rainy season. Some crops harvested from the irrigation farmland of the Tomas dam are sold in the market and those who are unable to get to as far as Makoda market to trade (buy and sell) to earn a living. The agricultural products bought and sold there include tomato pepper, onion, cassava, groundnut, maize, guinea corn, millet, rice, potato. Vehicles such as trucks and vans also load items that are taken to different parts of Nigeria such as Lagos, Ibadan, Akure, Onitsha amongst others.[23]

Makoda Town Market

The market is as old as the Makoda town itself but was renovated in 1991. It is located at the central area of the Makoda town and a highly commercial and busy environment. There are two routes to the market. First is through Shenteke, to Maitsidau to Koguna before getting to Makoda town. Secondly, from Wailare to Dambatta through to Police Station junction to a village called Karanbani Lalai to Jibga and then to Makoda. It has been widely known as a livestock market where there is a local abbatoir for slaughtering animals of all kinds. Butchery is a booming business and many from within the vicinity purchase meat for purpose of re-selling or consumption. The market has immense benefit to the community. This is because items like cassava, groundnut and maize are sold at relatively less prices and it is fast expanding. About six (6) Wakilis are placed at different locations in the market to collect revenue weekly and monthly. The market records at averagely 500 people (including buyers, sellers, and agents) and about 1000 cattle and goats. Most of the cows belong to the Hausa Fulani settlers or visitors who are home grown.[24]

The leadership of the market is succession or by government appointment. The Sarkin Kasuwa succeeded his father as market leader when Makoda was formerly under Dambatta Local Government. When his father was alive, he was the active person. Before 1991, his father had led the market by proxy until he assumed full leadership. The Sarkin Kasuwa has a vice chairman working closely with him and appointed by the local government. The Sarkin Kasuwa's appointment was confirmed by the local government through the Hakimi (District head) with the consent of the local government.[25]

Leadership is for life as no tenure ship period but only the government decides to remove one or in some circumstances, death. Markets within town have no Sarkin Kasuwa but those in the outskirts. It is not a family affair. When they were together (Makoda and Dambatta) they met with Chairmans representative. He was nominated and approved by a unanimous consensus of the stakeholders meeting**.** Prior to the appointment of the Sarkin Kasuwa at that` meeting his role was that he suggested for the first time, the need to allocate land for establishment of market which became the present location. The market leadership is involved in the sharing of the revenue of the market. The ticket is of two types; N50 and N30. If someone brings 3 goats, he will just pay for one. This has raised arguments among the traders and the market revenue collectors about levying every single commodity rather than payment in bulk value. The small value paid on each commodity should have spurred the traders to pay the appropriate fee in the appropriate manner in order to ensure.[26]

Those with stalls pay tax, so also are those who sell livestock but the rest and particularly those selling food do not pay tax. They refer the tax as: Kudin Rumfa (stall fees) N30 per stall and Kudin turke (Sheep/goat stake fees) N50

[22] Interview with Ibrahim Shenteke, Civil servant, age 52, Audu Bako College of Agriculture Dambatta, March 9, 2021

[23] Interview with Auwalu Haladu, civil servant, age 51, Bayero University Kano, June 11, 2020

[24] Interview with Uba Haruna, trader and Makoda Market Leader, age 58, Makoda Market, July 15, 2021

[25] Haruna, July 15, 2021

[26] Haruna, July 15, 2021

per livestock. There are at least 12 and at least 40 stakes of livestock. Kaka (harvest season) generate N10,000 while Damina (rainy season) generate N5,500, N6,000, N6500. Most of their stalls/shops were demolished when the government wished to construct 5km road. Now the shops are only 3 in number. Since there is usually fluctuation in the total revenues generated daily, monthly and yearly, the local government takes about 30% of the total earnings as tax from the farmers and traders. Usually the farmland is leased on yearly basis and renewable based on productivity and conformity to the regulations of its use.[27]

The Local Government Chairman of Makoda L.G.A offered the Sarkin Kasuwa an offer of appointment and his posting is the market. He has monthly salaries with years. The Sarkin Kasuwa meets with the Local Government authorities to sort out issues and for market improvement particularly revenue. The Laberiya market produce is not reaching this market but directed to southern Nigeria. They are vegetables. This market has its source of produce from the nearby western river Gari; the same vegetables which include maize, wheat, *tattasai*, *attarudu*, tomato, rice and okro. Unlike Laberiya which is seasonal (an annual market), this market is throughout the year on Thursdays.[28]

At the beginning no livestock stakes they were holding their produce at hand. The market started as local food market (*maciya*) at the centre of the town and later moved to the present location as a bigger market. Livestock is often more in number during the Sallah period. During rainy season particularly when the market day experience is heavy with continuous rains most sellers would not come to the market. This marks a low turn-over in revenue. There are no stores as Kano Agricultural Supply Company Limited (KASCO) store has not been functional for long. The traders have no registration and were not registered. The market leadership collects money on behalf of the local government.[29]

The market leadership urges the government to assist them to fence the market particularly the "*kara*" place of selling livestock, to establish motor garage, particularly as there is allocated land for that purpose already in place, to reconstruct their stalls, to construct office for their administration. The market attracts traders from *Babura*, *Kazaure*, Amaryawa and surrounding settlements. Traders move to Kazaure on Fridays as well as Saye in Bichi. From there they move to Gora in Kazaure on Saturdays, to Yar Kirya on Monday, to *Kanya Babba* in Babura on Tuesdays, to *Matan-Fada* (West of Kunchi) on Wednesdays. Sarkin Kasuwa and his towns' people reached a consensus to hold the market on Thursdays considering that no nearby market holds on Thursdays. The sanitation of the market is made done by private individuals from the town. They sanitize the market and make it in heaps and sell the waste to other people.[30]

The peak of the market is during the harvest season (*kaka*). The rainy season affects trading seriously. Whoever brings livestock to sell during that period is just to get liquidity to buy food stuffs as there is scarcity of food then. Price instability or fluctuation has no effect on their revenue collection but the traders meet at the first instance to decide on price.[31]

Shenteke market

There is a small market at the Shenteke section of the Tomas dam area in which agricultural products are bought and sold. They include millet, guinea corn, groundnut and beans. It is believed that this community market has been in since 1978 after the resettlement of some individuals away from the current gravity area of the Tomas dam. Rural community dwellers of Garka, Tsabani, Baragumi, Galoru all came together to the town called Shenteke to engage in economic activities.[32]

Shenteke is a very small community neighboring Galoru and the walls of Audu Bako College of Agriculture. The smallness of the community makes the selling place a scanty one. The sight of very few sellers of meat (*suya*), local

[27] Haruna, July 15, 2021
[28] Haruna, July 15, 2021
[29] Haruna, July 15, 2021
[30] Haruna, July 15, 2021
[31] Haruna, July 15, 2021
[32] Interview with Ibrahim Shenteke, civil servant, age 52, Audu Bako College of Agriculture Dambatta, March 9, 2021

milk (*fura*), sesame seed (*ridi*), corn (*masara*), and processed food is very evident beside the main road. This selling place only has the capacity to meet the demand of the residents of the community as well as commuters passing by the area on their way to Dambatta and its environs.[33]

Maitsidau market

This is a famous market as old as the Maitsidau town. A predominantly garment/fabric dominated market also has a few shades for household items, local skin bags, raffia bags, handmade leather bags, tailoring etc. The demand for fabrics is on the high note and the products manufactured there are taken to Italy, Niger Republic, Mali, Burkina Faso, England the United States. Most of the fish sold at the market is gotten from the Tomas dam. The people engage mostly in community trading where a section of their mud made houses are converted to shops where various goods and services are stored for potential sales.[34]

The market place is beside the roads leading to the interior and a lot of hawkers are stationed in strategic locations with their local trolley containing juice mixtures, herbal medicines, snacks and displays of various items such as the notable tie and dye, wool mill and local fabric manufactured and dyed by the native manufacturers. Another distinguishing factor with many other markets is its scantiness low income generation. The village has more specialized economies zones than actual market setting. Each product was with a place of production, procurement and storage. Many people who buy items from the Laberiya market also patronize the high quality of dyed clothing made by the indigenous garment center.[35]

Danmarke market

Initially it started when Makoda was with Dambatta L.G.A. The market holds on Mondays of every week. He had been assisting his father for last 20 years and substantive leader for 22 years. His assistance: vice chairman appointed by the district head with consent of LG chairman. Other people assisting the Sarkin Kasuwa in collecting revenue from the marketers were appointed based on hardworking and sincerity. Revenue on the ticket is N50 but most of the marketers when they came with 3 or 4 animals will refuse paying N50 each instead of paying N100 or N150. The average weekly revenue is around N3000 – N3500. However, during the festival (Sallah) generated revenue is up to N8,000.[36]

The Danmarke market operates mostly during the wet season when agricultural produce are rain fed. Unlike the dry season when most of the population go to do their business at Laberiya, there is more traffic in the market with varying kinds of activities such as animal butchering, mechanical repairs, food selling, hawking, stakes for cattle, stores for storage and redistribution of items such as rice, guinea corn, millet, tomato etc all derived from the harvest of the Fadama cultivation area of Tomas dam. There is a huge revenue shortfall due to low value of cattle stakes and stalls. There is poor infrastructure and lack of support from the local government.[37]

Situating the Study within Existing Scholarship

The historiography of markets in northern Nigeria and Hausaland has long emphasized their central role in economic exchange, social organization, and political authority. Seminal works by Paul E. Lovejoy have demonstrated how West African markets functioned as integral components of regional and long-distance trade networks, linking agricultural production, slavery, and commercial expansion within broader political economies.[38] Similarly, A.G. Hopkins' analysis of indigenous trade systems situates African markets as structured institutions that predated and shaped colonial economic transformations rather than passive recipients of external forces.[39]

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[33] Shenteke, March 9, 2021

[34] Interview with Ahmed Dan-Bala, civil servant, age 55, Maitsidau Town, April 5, 2018

[35] Dan-Bala, April 5, 2018

[36] Interview with Auwalu Sani, trader and market leader of Danmarke market age 52, Danmarke market Galoru ward, August 9, 2021

[37] Sani, August 9, 2021

[38] Paul E. Lovejoy, *Caravans of Kola: The Hausa Kola Trade, 1700-1900*, Ahmadu Bello University Press, Zaria, 1980

[39] A.G. Hopkins, *An Economic History of West Africa*, Longman, London, 1973

Within the Kano context, scholars such as Abdullahi Smith and Murray Last have underscored the historical prominence of Kano as a commercial and political center from the nineteenth century. Smith's work highlights the development of Kano's trading systems and their integration into wider Sudanic and trans-Saharan networks. While Last situates markets within the political and religious institutions of the Sokoto Caliphate, emphasizing their role in urban growth, state formation and social regulation.[40] These studies collectively frame markets as engines of economic expansion and social cohesion, particularly during the boom of the groundnut economy and cattle trade.

Most recent scholarship has shifted attention towards rural and periodic markets, emphasizing their importance in linking hinterland producers to urban and regional economies. Studies on rural political economy and agricultural commercialization demonstrate how ecological conditions, seasonal cycles, transport infrastructure, and state led interventions shape market organization.[41] Research on local governance further reveals the persistence of traditional market institutions, notably the Sarkin Kasuwa, as intermediaries between traders, communities, and local government authorities in matters of regulation, revenue collection and dispute resolution.[42]

Conclusion

The markets in the Tomas Dam area Wailare, Laberiya, Gawon-bature, Kayan-ore, Makoda town market, Shenteke, Maitsidau and Danmarke stand as enduring historical and contemporary economic, social, and political institutions. Their history is fundamentally tied to hydro-agricultural cycles of Tomas and Gari dams, which provide the essential commodities for trade, primarily vegetables, grains, and fish. Historically, they represent more than just commercial venues; they are interconnected nodes in a regional supply chain, where seasonal fluctuations dictate the locus of trade activity, as demonstrated by the relationship between Laberiya and Galoru/Danmarke. Their reach extends regionally, and, in some cases, internationally drawing traders from distant Nigerian states and even the Niger Republic.

[40] Abdullahi Smith, "Some Considerations Relating to the Formation of States in Hausa land", *Journal of Historical Society of Nigeria*, Vol, no. 3, 1970: 329-346

[41] Sara Berry, *No Condition Is Permanent: The Social Dynamics of Agrarian Change in Sub-Saharan Africa*, Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1993.

[42] M.M. Saidu, Land Tenure Issues in and Around Tomas River Project, 35.